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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: : Date: October 15, 2004  
ALLEN et al. : Confirmation No.: 7738  
Serial No.: 09/847,446 : Group Art Unit: 3635  
Filed: May 2, 2001 : Examiner: Brian E. Glessner

For: STEEL FRAME STRESS REDUCTION CONNECTION

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 16, 2004 relating to the above-identified patent application. Please reconsider the patent application in view of the amendments and remarks presented hereinafter, which are submitted as a full and complete response to the aforementioned Office Action.

Claims 1-4, 6-31, and 34-44 remain in the subject patent application. Claims 32 and 33 have been canceled, and claims 4, 6, 11, 12, 14-18, 21, 22, 25, 26, 31, and 38-40 have been amended herein. Claim 5 was canceled in an earlier paper.